

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /094 W

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R 221855Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3786

INFO AMEBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEBASSY THE HAGUE

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USSMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EFIN, EC, IT

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LUCCA: ECONOMIC TOPICS

1. DURING ECMIN'S OCTOBER 21 VISIT, MFA VICE DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS RICCIULLI BRIEFED ECMIN ON
ECONOMIC SUBJECTS COVERED AT EC MINISTERS' MEETING
IN LUCCA OCTOBER 18.

2. MAJOR ECONOMIC TOPIC WAS UK'S INSISTENCE TO SEEK A
SEPARATE SEAT TO THE DECEMBER CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE BRITISH TENACIOUSLY DEFENDED
THEIR POSITION AND NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED. OBVIOUSLY,
RICCIULLI NOTED, THIS SUBJECT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP AT
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FORTHCOMING EC MEETINGS. RICCIULLI ADDED HIS OWN CONCERN

OVER THE UK ATTITUDE ON THIS POINT, NOTING THAT UNLESS
THE UK BACKED DOWN, INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES (HE SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED FRG, NETHERLANDS AND ITALY) WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A
SIMILAR POSITION. HE OFFERED NO OPINION ON HOW THIS
PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED.

3. OTHER ECONOMIC SUBJECT ENTERING INTO FOREIGN MINISTERS'
DISCUSSIONS WAS THE OCTOBER 6 PREPARATORY MEETING IN NEW
YORK FOR THE "BIG-SIX" SUMMIT. ITALY MADE IT CLEAR IN LUCCA
THAT IT HAD NOT ATTENDED THE MEETING AS THE EC REPRESENTATIVE
BUT RATHER AS ONE OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL NATIONS. THUS, THERE
WAS NO QUESTION OF PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE NINE. THIS
WAS APPARENTLY NOT A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, BUT RATHER A SUBJECT
OF DISCUSSION.

4. RICCIULLI, WHO REMARKED THAT RUMOR HAD GIVEN VERY LITTLE
BRIEFING TO HIAS AIDES ON WHAT HAD TRANSPired, NOTED THAT THE
MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY AND FRANK
ATMOSPHERE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME15395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0944
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751028/aaaaazbl.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LUCCA: ECONOMIC TOPICS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EFIN, IT, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006